

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164022

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ORIGIN COA-02

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ARA/NC MR. SONANDRES (SUB)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:TBIO TPHY XL

SUBJECT:R/V ATLANTIS II

1. R/V ATLANTIS II, PRIVATELY OPERATED BY WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION, DEPARTS BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 3 TO BEGIN CRUISE OF BIOLOGICAL STUDIES. VESSEL TO TAKE TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY MEASUREMENTS AND ASSESS PLANKTON CROPS; TRAWLS WILL BE TAKEN TO EXAMINE SPECIES COMPOSITION AND POPULATION DENSITY OF MID WATER FISHES; LIFE OF SEA BOTTOM (BENTHOS) WILL BE INVESTIGATED. VESSEL TRACK: FROM BARBADOS WESTWARD INTO CARIBBEAN, PASSING ISLA MARGARITA AND INTO AREA CARIACO TRENCH, THEN TURNING NORTH AND CROSSING CARIBBEAN PASSING BETWEEN BONAIRE AND LAS AVES HEADING NORTH FOR MONA PASSAGE AND ATLANTIC OCEAN, CRUISE CONCLUDES WOODS HOLE, MASS AUGUST 25 AFTER ADDITIONAL WORK PUERTO TRENCH AND SARGASSO SEA.

2. WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INST (WHOI) WAS INFORMED RECENTLY OF VENEZUELAN SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN US R/V'S BY DR. RICHARD DUDLEY OF UNIV. OF GEORGIA. THROUGH HIM, WHOI HAS EXTENDED INVITATION TO HERMANO GINES, PRESIDENTE, FOUNDACION LA SALLE SCIENCIAS NATURALES IN CARACAS. INVITE
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PAGE 02 STATE 164022

HOLDS TWO BERTHS OPEN FOR VENEZUELAN SCIENTISTS TO BOARD

AT BRIDGETOWN, WHOI TO MEET SHIPBOARD EXPENSES AND SET THEM ASHORE AT ISLA MARGARITA SEVERAL DAYS LATER BEFORE

RESUMING CRUISE. WHOI HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE AS YET.

3. SINCE R/V ATLANTIS II EXPECTED TO BE OFF VENEZUELAN COAST FOR SEVERAL DAYS - INCLUDING STATION AT TEN AND A HALF DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE, SIXTY-FIVE DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE, IN CARIACO TRENCH - REQUEST POST INFORM GOV OF CRUISE ON BASIS OF FOLLOW UP INVITATION TO GINES. WE HOPE TO AVOID REPEAT OF DECEMBER LAST SITUATION WHERE GOV NAVY CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND ATLANTIS INSIDE GOLFO CARIACO.

4. ADDITIONAL INFO: R/V ATLANTIS II 64 METERS LENGTH, 2300 TONS, MASTER IS HERBERT BABBITT WITH CREW OF 30 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 26, VESSEL CALL SIGN KADC. CHIEF SCIENTIST EDWARD CARPENTER OF WHOI. DATA TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IF DESIRED. INGERSOLL

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